AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-37.   (Cancelled)

38.   (New) An electronic document answering machine comprising:

a central processing unit (CPU);

a communication interface, wherein the electronic document answering machine is configured to access at least one remote source via the communication interface;

a memory configured to store at least one new document received from the at least one remote source based on at least accessing the at least one remote source;

an alert device comprising a light emitting device, wherein the alert device is configured to illuminate the light emitting device based on at least the at least one new document being received and stored in the memory of the electronic document answering machine and not yet reviewed; and

a rendering apparatus configured to render a stored document of the at least one new document.

39.   (New) The electronic document answering machine of claim 38, wherein the rendering apparatus comprises a speaker and a voice synthesis apparatus.

40.   (New) The electronic document answering machine of claim 38, wherein the rendering apparatus comprises a display apparatus.

41.   (New) The electronic document answering machine of claim 38, wherein the electronic document answering machine further comprises a port configured to enable communication between the electronic document answering machine and a host personal computer (PC), wherein the electronic document answering machine is configured to transmit the stored

document to the PC, and wherein the communication interface is a modem and wherein the electronic document answering machine is configured to provide modem functionality for use by the PC.

42.   (New) The electronic document answering machine of claim 38, wherein the at least one remote source includes an Internet mail server, and the stored document includes at least one addressed e-mail message received from the Internet mail server.

43.   (New) The electronic document answering machine of claim 38, further comprising a first pushbutton including the light emitting device and configured to initiate rendering of the stored document, wherein the light emitting device includes a light emitting diode.

44.   (New) The electronic document answering machine of claim 43, further comprising a second pushbutton configured to control an application of power to one or more power-using elements of the electronic document answering machine.

45.   (New) The electronic document answering machine of claim 38, wherein the electronic document answering machine further comprises a plurality of programmable mail boxes, wherein a first one of the plurality of programmable mail boxes is designated for fax messages, a second one of the plurality of programmable mail boxes is designated for World Wide Web pages and a third one of the plurality of programmable mail boxes is designated for voice messages.

46.   (New) An electronic document answering system in a personal computer (PC), the electronic document answering system comprising:

        means for retrieving documents, wherein the means for retrieving documents is configured to access one or more remote sources and retrieve and store one or more new digital documents; and

        means for providing a light emitting device alert, wherein the means for providing the light emitting device alert is configured to illuminate a light emitting device to signal that the one or more new digital documents have been retrieved and stored and are ready for review.

47.   (New) The system of claim 46, further comprising:

means for initializing, wherein the means for initializing includes the means for providing a light emitting device alert and wherein the means for initializing is configured to signal the electronic document answering system to initiate review of the one or more new digital documents that have been retrieved and stored and are ready for review; and

means for operating code provided for the electronic document answering system if the PC is in reduced-power mode and if the PC is in full power operating mode,

wherein the means for operating code is configured to base operation on a first download frequency if the PC is operating in the full power operating mode and a second download frequency if the PC is operating in the reduced-power mode, the first download frequency being greater than the second download frequency, and the second download frequency being indicative of one or more rules associated with a time of day, time of month or time of year of operation of the electronic document answering system.

48.   (New) The system of claim 47, wherein at least one of the one or more rules associated with a time of day, time of month or time of year of operation of the electronic document answering system comprises a selected download frequency to be employed on calendar holidays.

49.   (New) The system of claim 47, further comprising a means for receiving input, wherein the means for providing the light emitting device alert and the means for initializing are in the means for receiving input, and wherein the means for receiving input is communicatively coupled with the PC.

50.   (New) The system of claim 49, wherein the means for providing the light emitting device alert is a light emitting diode in a keyboard, and the means for initializing is a key on the means for receiving input.

51.   (New) A computing device, comprising:

a communication apparatus configured to interface to at least one network store of electronic documents to receive a new set of electronic documents having a delivery address associated with the computing device;

a memory configured to store the new set of electronic documents having the delivery address;

an alert device configured to render video based on at least receipt of the new set of electronic documents having the delivery address; and

an input device configured to request rendering of the new set of electronic documents having the delivery address, wherein the computing device is communicatively coupled to a television configured to display rendered video.

52.   (New) A method, comprising:

receiving, from at least one remote network store, one or more new electronic documents having an associated delivery address;

storing the one or more new electronic documents in a memory for electronic documents having the associated delivery address; and

automatically rendering a video indication that the one or more new electronic documents are received.

53.   (New) The method of claim 52, further comprising:

receiving a request to render at least one of the one or more new electronic documents; and

transferring the at least one of the one or more new electronic documents to a computing device for further processing, wherein the transferring is performed based on at least the request to render the at least one of the one or more new electronic documents, wherein the transferring includes transferring the at least one of the one or more new electronic documents to a computing device for display of the at least one of the one or more new electronic documents by the computing device.

54.   (New) A computing device, comprising:

a retriever configured to access one or more remote sources and retrieve and store in memory of the computing device at least one new digital document addressed to an addressee associated with the computing device; and

an input device having at least one light emitting device included in the input device, wherein the at least one light emitting device is configured to become illuminated based on at least the at least one new digital document being stored in the memory of, and ready for review at, the computing device.

55.   (New) The computing device of claim 54, wherein the retriever is further configured to operate using special code to access the one or more remote sources at a first selected frequency if the computing device has received an input indicating use of the computing device over a selected past time interval, and to access the one or more remote sources at a second selected frequency if the computing device has not received the input indicating use of the computing device over the selected past time interval, wherein the computing device is a personal computer,

and wherein the input device is configured to be activated to initiate rendering of the at least one new digital document.

56.   (New) The computing device of claim 54, wherein the retriever is further configured to operate using special code to access the one or more remote sources at a selected frequency if the computing device is in a reduced-power state, wherein the selected frequency is based on a time of year in which the computing device is operating, and wherein the light emitting device is a light emitting diode.

57.   (New) A method, comprising:

accessing at least one remote source of electronically addressable digital documents addressed to an addressee;

receiving and storing in memory at least one of the electronically addressable digital documents addressed to the addressee, wherein the receiving and the storing is based on at least the accessing the at least one remote source; and

initiating illumination of a light emitting device based on at least the storing in memory the at least one of the electronically addressable digital documents.

58.   (New) The method of claim 57, further comprising rendering the at least one of the electronically addressable digital documents, wherein the rendering is performed based on at least activating an input device comprising the light emitting device and wherein the light emitting device is a light emitting diode, and wherein the rendering includes rendering the at least one of the electronically addressable digital documents during a time period over which no other electronically addressable digital document is rendered.